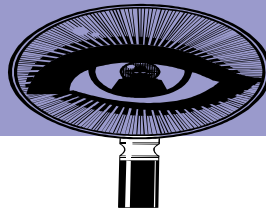


# An Eye On Your Economy



*"An Eye on Your Economy" highlights the U.S. Census Bureau's data collection activities, for the Manufacturing, Mining, and Construction sectors of our economy. We hope you find the articles and information useful and look forward to suggestions on ways to increase it's value in the future.*

## Nearly Half the Value of Bituminous Coal and Lignite Shipments come from West Virginia and Kentucky

### Did you know . . . . .

- 9 of every 10 tons of coal used in the United States are for electricity generation.
- The first electrically produced disc was released by Victor Talking Machine Company in 1925.
- Oil and gas production generates the largest mineral revenue.

The nation's bituminous coal and lignite industries reported \$23.2 billion of shipments in 1997. West Virginia led the country with 24 percent, followed by Kentucky with 20 percent according to two Economic Census reports released by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

Together, the two states

accounted for nearly one-half of the total dollar value of shipments and receipts by bituminous coal and lignite mining companies during 1997. Pennsylvania followed with 10 percent.

The nation's bituminous coal and lignite surface mining and bituminous coal underground mining industries together em-

ployed 87.0 thousand miners at 1,448 establishments. The surface mining industry accounted for 42 percent of the workers and 58 percent of the establishments.

*Source: 1997 Economic Census, Mining Sector, Industry Series*

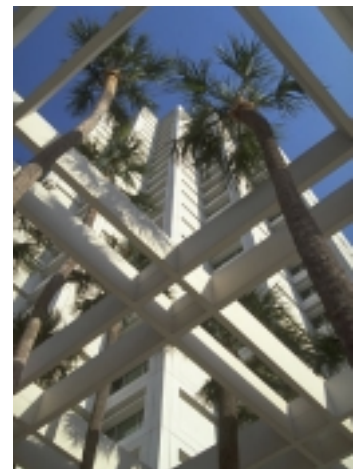
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## New Data Product for the Construction Sector by George Roff

The Construction Expenditures Branch recently introduced a new data product: Annual Private Nonresidential Construction Put in Place Estimates by State, 1993-1998. Data are available for the 29 most active states, which account for 90 percent of all private nonresidential construction activity in the United States.

This manipulatable file is available for \$100 by electronic mail or on diskette and is the Census Bureau's first attempt to report this activity by state. Data are gathered through the project-based Construction Progress Reporting Surveys.



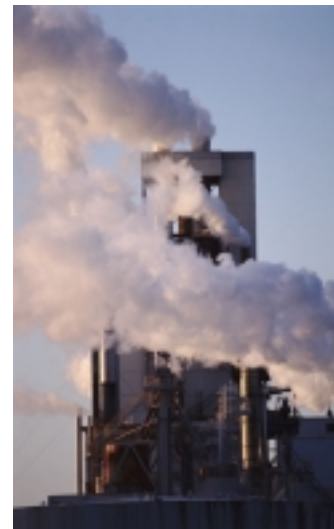
## Plant Capacity

by Dave Gromos

U.S. domestic manufacturing plants used an estimated 75 percent of their full production capacity for the fourth quarter 1997. Durable goods industries in the fourth quarter 1997 operated at a 1 percent lower rate than nondurable goods industries with a full production utilization rate of 75 and 76 percent respectively. Those industries with the

highest utilization rates were paper and allied products at 85 percent and primary metal industries at 84 percent. Among the major industries with the lowest utilization rates for their full production capacity were the leather and leather products industries at 71 percent and the instrument and related products industries at 72 percent.

Full production capacity is broadly defined as the maximum level of production a plant could attain under normal operating conditions. The utilization rates are the ratios of actual production levels to the full production levels.



## North American Industry Classification System



The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is replacing the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. NAICS will reshape the way we view our changing economy. This new system was developed jointly by the United States, Canada, and Mexico to provide new comparability in statistics about business activity across North America.

A new North American

Product Classification System is presently under research and development by the statistical agencies of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Phase I of this initiative is focused on identifying and defining the products produced by industries in four selected service sectors. It is anticipated that collection of product data for these Phase I industries will be introduced during the

2002 Economic Census. Phase II of the initiative will extend the product identification and definition process to all remaining NAICS industries, and it will yield a comprehensive product classification system that is shared by all three countries. It is expected that data collection for Phase II products will be introduced during the 2007 Economic Census.

## Electronic Computer Manufacturing (NAICS – 334111)

by Keith McKenzie

Since 1992, the computer industry has grown tremendously. The 1997 Economic Census results show that shipments in this industry increased 73 percent, from \$38.2 billion in 1992 to \$65.9 billion in 1997.

This industry has changed in many ways since 1992. Prices of personal com-

puters have plummeted. Computers selling below \$1,000 were once unthinkable, but now represent a major portion of the consumer market. Processing speeds have increased significantly. In addition, new products, especially in the portable area, which in-

cludes laptops, notebooks, sub-notebooks, personal digital assistants, and other portable computers, have been developed.

*Source: 1997 Economic Census, Manufacturing Sector, Industry Series*



"STATISTICS FOR  
TOMORROW'S BUSINESS  
DECISIONS"

## Perishable Prepared Food Manufacturing (NAICS – 311991)

by Nancy Higgins



Looks good, doesn't it?

In 1997, total employment for this industry was 20.7 thousand employees and value of industry shipments totaled \$2.7 billion.

Because this NAICS industry is composed of only a portion of the 1987 SIC 2099, Miscellaneous Foods, historical general

statistics are not directly comparable. However, we show 1997 product shipments of perishable prepared foods (regardless of industry where the establishment is classified) at \$3.0 billion.

The 1997 Economic Census results show that the top 3 products for this

industry are prepared meals (27 percent), salads (24 percent), and other perishable prepared foods (15 percent).

*Source: 1997 Economic Census, Manufacturing Sector, Industry Series*

## Textile Machinery Manufacturing (NAICS – 333292)

by Joanna Nguyen

The textile machinery manufacturing industry employed 13.4 thousand people in 1997. The leading states in employment are North Carolina and South Carolina, accounting for 51 percent of the industry employment. The 1997 Economic Census results show that this industry had \$1.5 billion product shipments of which 61 percent were for

textile machinery and 34 percent for parts and attachments.

North Carolina leads the industry with \$484.0 million in shipments (28 percent). South Carolina is second with \$395.0 million or 22 percent of the total value of industry shipments.

*Source: 1997 Economic Census, Manufacturing Sector, Industry Series*



The textile machinery manufacturing industry employed 13.4 thousand people in 1997.

## Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Special Trade Contractors (NAICS – 235110)

by Carla Bailey

The plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning special trade contractors industry is comprised of establishments primarily engaged in installation of plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning equipment. This industry includes the installation of refrigeration equipment, sprinkler systems, and incidental sheet metal work performed in con-

junction with the installation of plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning equipment, as well as the installation of environmental controls, which is recognized as a new business activity for 1997. In addition, service contractors is a new classification in the industry for 1997.

Based on the results from the 1997 Economic

Census, the total number of construction workers increased 28.8 percent from 612.5 thousand in 1992 to 788.9 thousand employees in 1997. The value of construction work increased 53.5 percent from \$56.9 billion in 1992 to \$87.3 billion in 1997. California and Texas are number one and two respectively in the number of establishments, number of construction workers,

and value of construction workers for the plumbing, heating, and air-conditioning special trade contractors industry.

*Source: 1997 Economic Census, Construction Sector, Industry Series*



## *It All Starts Here.....*

The U.S. Census Bureau's Manufacturing and Construction Division (MCD) provides data on key barometers and indicators regarding U.S. economic production and activity. We reflect the pulse of our economy. We publish detail statistics by industry and geographic area on employment, wages, inventories, value of shipments, dollar value of business done, housing starts and completions, value added by mining, construction and manufacturing, and more. These data are an

important part of the framework for composite measures of our economy, such as the gross domestic product, input-output models, production and price indexes, and other statistical series that measure economic change. For more information about the scope, coverage, classification codes, and our data products contact us. We believe that measuring the health of the economy starts with our statistics.

**William G. Bostic, Chief  
MCD**



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### **Services Provided**

\* Subscription service for the Current Industrial Reports (CIRs)

\* Custom data extractions from Economic Census CD-ROMs

### **Economic Indicator Reports 1st Qtr. Release Dates!**

Housing Starts	Building Permits	Houses Sold	Housing Completions	M3 (Advanced Report)	M3 (Regular Report)	Value of Construction Put in Place
8:30 a.m.	(N/A)	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	10:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
01/19/00	01/27/00	01/06/00	01/07/00	01/27/00	01/05/00	01/04/00
02/16/00	02/25/00	02/02/00	02/04/00	02/24/00	02/03/00	02/01/00
03/16/00	03/24/00	03/02/00	03/06/00	03/24/00	03/03/00	03/01/00

### **Programs:**

- \* Economic Census
  - Manufacturing Sector
  - Mining Sector
  - Construction Sector
- \* Annual Survey of Manufactures (ASM)

- \* Current Industrial Reports (CIR)
- \* Monthly Shipments, Inventories, and Orders (M3)
- \* Construction Statistics Indicator Programs
- \* Special Study Surveys
  - Pollution Abatement
  - Plant Capacity
  - Research & Development